


TEXAS NATURAL RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

# ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDE

FOR TEXAS  
SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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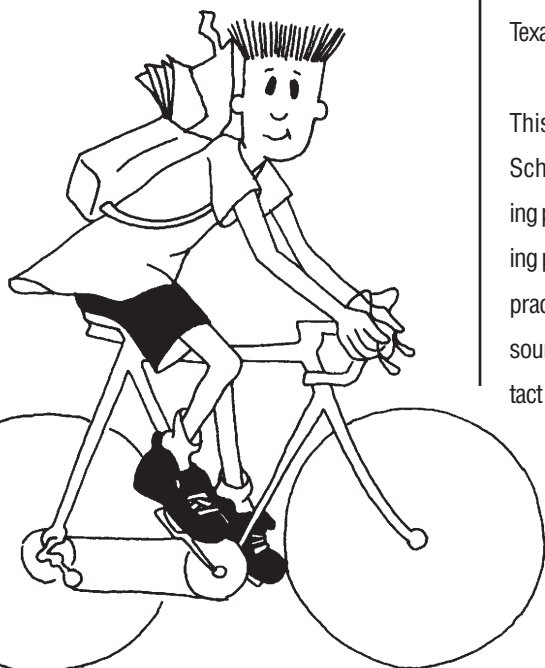
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## AGENCY MISSION

The mission of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission is to protect human health, environmental quality, and natural resources by ensuring:

- clean air for Texans to breathe,
- an adequate, affordable supply of clean water for the benefit of Texas citizens and businesses,
- conservation of resources and reduction of pollution,
- and proper and safe disposal of various forms of pollutants consistent with sustainable economic development.



The TNRCC is also committed to providing efficient and continually improving service to all the citizens of Texas.

## INTRODUCTION

The TNRCC is one of the largest and most comprehensive state environmental protection agencies in the nation. It includes almost 3,000 employees and 15 regional field offices. The agency issues regulations that protect air, water and land resources from pollution and require cleanup of pollution that has occurred. The TNRCC also has a significant outreach program that encourages a voluntary approach to protecting the state's natural resources for the benefit of Texas' citizens and visitors.

This Environmental Guide for Texas School Districts is designed to be a starting point for school districts in implementing pollution prevention and reduction practices. This guide describes specific sources for school district officials to contact with questions.

Throughout this publication, numbers in parentheses refer to publication numbers of the referenced documents

produced by TNRCC, to help identify them when ordering. Order TNRCC documents from the Public Information and Publications Division at 512/239-0028. Document titles not followed by a publication number are not produced by TNRCC. Specific sources are listed to obtain these publications.

In addition to this guide, schools may want to request a copy of the *Local Government Guide to the TNRCC* (GI-145) produced by the TNRCC's Local Government Assistance Program. The Program coordinates technical assistance to cities, counties, or other governmental entities.

To suggest other school environmental issues for inclusion in future revisions of this guide, please call the Public Information and Publications Division at 512/239-0010. For general information on the TNRCC or for telephone numbers of program areas not listed in this book, call the agency's main telephone number, 512/239-1000. Information on the TNRCC can also be found through the agency's World Wide Web site at <http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us>.

## VOLUNTARY EFFORTS

The TNRCC offers information and resources to involve students and teachers in preventing and reducing pollution. These include teacher training and educational resource materials, awards programs, and opportunities to participate in environmental activities like community cleanups.

## Education Resources

For information on the TNRCC's education resources, contact the Public Information and Publications Division at 512/239-0010.

**Teacher Training Programs:** The Education Assistance Section conducts a graduate-level course called Teaching Environmental Sciences (TES) at different locations around the state each summer in partnership with university education departments. Teachers receive three graduate credit hours for completing the course, consisting of 45 classroom hours. This also qualifies teachers for certification from the Texas Environmental Education Advisory Committee (TEEAC). During the course, teachers participate in hands-on activities, hear lectures from professionals in environ-

mental careers, and take field trips to industrial facilities with award-winning environmental programs. Lessons written by the teachers during the TES courses are published in the TNRCC's *Environmental Teaching Guide* (GI-207).

The TNRCC also provides a Texas supplement to Keep America Beautiful's *Waste in Place* program for teachers in Grades K-6 called *Visit the Triple R Ranch - Reduce/Reuse/Recycle* (GI-72, rev. 5/94).



**Teacher Resources:** The TNRCC's Education Assistance Section works closely with TNRCC regulatory program areas to identify information appropriate for Texas teachers in grades K-12. The current list of these materials can be found in the *TNRCC Sampler Menu* (GI-79). The Education Assistance Section also is a central customer service point for teachers seeking environmental education resources and students seeking information for environmental research projects.

**Toll-free Number:** The TNRCC has a toll-free number that teachers and students can call to get information on a wide variety of environmental issues. It's a good reference for school administrators as well. Call 1-800-64-TEXAS.

**Coordination with the Texas Education Agency:** The TNRCC works with the Texas Environmental Education Advisory Committee (TEEAC), established by Senate Bill 1340 (1991), which advises the Commissioner of Education on ways to infuse environmental issues in all subject areas at all grade levels. TNRCC teacher training programs are TEEAC-certified. For more information on TEEAC and a list of certified courses, contact Irene Pickhardt

of the Texas Education Agency at 512/463-9566.

#### Coordination with other State Agencies:

The TNRCC is a charter member of the Texas Environmental Awareness Network (TEAN), a coalition of state, federal and regional agencies and nonprofit organizations with environmental interests. The organization was created to avoid duplication of effort, increase cooperation, and maximize funds for public education and awareness programs. TEAN publishes the *Environmental Programs Guide*, a listing of the member agencies and their areas of responsibility. It includes a list of classroom materials which are available at no charge to teachers. A cross-reference listing helps citizens see how the agencies' responsibilities differ. Call the Public Information and Publications Division at 512/239-0010 or any participating TEAN organization to obtain a copy. TEAN also produces the *Eye on Earth* television show, which is broadcast over the Texas Education Agency's T-STAR satellite network. Call the TNRCC's Public Information and Publications Division or TEA's T-STAR program at 512/475-3602 for a schedule of broadcast dates and topics for the current school year.

## Environmental Activities For Teachers And Students

**River and Lake Cleanup Program:** To involve more Texans in local water quality issues, the TNRCC's River and Lake Cleanup Program helps communities start or enhance lake and river cleanup events. With more than 50 events each year, the cleanups are a great way to educate students about local water quality and pollution problems and get them involved in their community. For information, contact the Pollution Prevention and Recycling Division at 512/239-4744.

**Texas Watch Monitoring:** Texas Watch, TNRCC's statewide volunteer monitoring program, trains citizens to collect water quality information. Volunteers, schools and environmental managers are encouraged to use the information to identify and increase understanding of local and regional water quality issues. The information also is entered into the TNRCC's database to supplement data gathered by professional monitors at the state level. Information from the database is included in the state's biennial *Water Quality Inventory* (305b report) in three volumes (SFR-11a, b, and c), submitted to the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and combined with other states' reports to create the national water quality inventory. For a copy of the report, contact the Public Information and Publications Division at 512/239-0028.

Students are vital participants in the Texas Watch effort, comprising 40% of the program's 5,000 volunteers. Through regular sampling activities, students collect important information used in water quality management decisions around the state. When volunteer monitoring efforts reveal problems, professionals are sent to perform more advanced testing. The program introduces students to basic water quality concepts, and gives them a better understanding of the factors that influence the quality of Texas water resources.

Texas Watch has expanded its monitoring activities to include an extensive nonpoint source pollution monitoring program in selected areas. Future areas of expansion may include observational monitoring (habitat assessments, animal and plant species identification) and air quality monitoring. For more information, call Texas Watch at 512/239-4741.

## Clean Texas 2000

CLEAN TEXAS 2000 is designed to encourage students and teachers in setting specific goals to reduce and prevent pollution in Texas. More than 1,500 schools, businesses, local governments, civic organizations and citizens have committed to reduce waste and prevent pollution as CLEAN TEXAS 2000 Environmental Partners. Every Texan who writes to TNRCC outlining at least one environmental project will be considered a CLEAN TEXAS 2000 Partner and receive a certificate signed by the governor and the chairman of the TNRCC. Call the CLEAN TEXAS 2000 Partnership Section at 512/239-3150 for more information.

Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence Program: Winners of these prestigious awards are selected from the most outstanding CLEAN TEXAS 2000 partnership projects. Especially relevant to schools are the Education and Youth categories. Emphasis in the selection of awards is on programs with concrete benefits to the environment and on partnerships developed to achieve the project's goals. Award winners are honored at a banquet every Spring in Austin. For applications or further

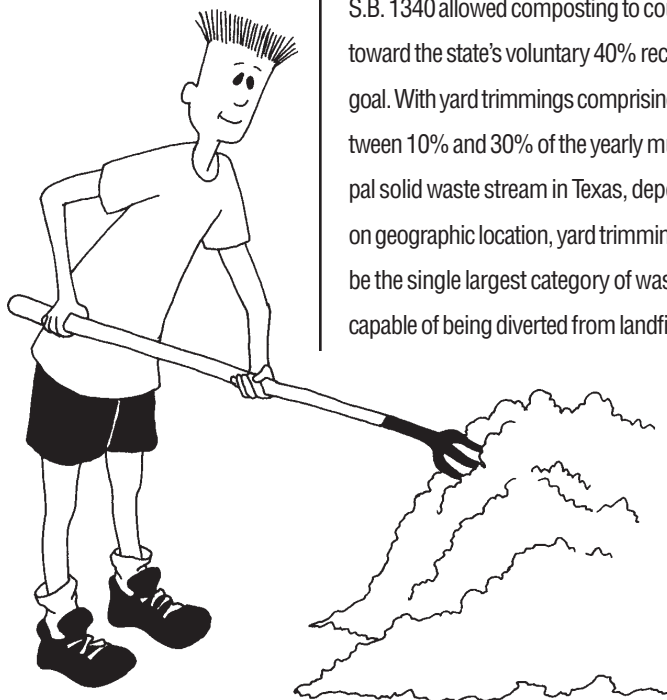
information, contact the CLEAN TEXAS 2000 Partnership Section at 512/239-3164.

**Texas Recycles Day:** On November 15, TNRCC invites every school, business, local government and civic and environmental group to participate in Texas Recycles Day, an annual event to encourage all Texans to start or expand recycling efforts. All recycling pledges are entered in a drawing for great prizes donated by businesses interested in the environment. Contact the CLEAN TEXAS 2000 Partnership Section at 512/239-3150.

**Clean Texas Star Program:** Schools, business and other organizations are encouraged to join the new Clean Texas Star voluntary waste reduction program. Any school or organization, no matter what size, that commits to reducing their waste by at least 25% is eligible to become a Clean Texas Star member. This program provides incentives, recognition and tools to help conserve resources and save money. Contact the CLEAN TEXAS Star Program at 512/239-3180.

## Composting

S.B. 1340 allowed composting to count toward the state's voluntary 40% recycling goal. With yard trimmings comprising between 10% and 30% of the yearly municipal solid waste stream in Texas, depending on geographic location, yard trimmings may be the single largest category of waste capable of being diverted from landfills.





Schools can take a leadership role in community-wide efforts to compost materials they generate in their own “back yard.”

A school may realize significant savings associated with reduced disposal and collection costs through composting and the Texas Agriculture Extension Service’s Don’t Bag It® program, a lawn mowing and watering program.

Composting involves using grass, leaves and small tree branches (particularly if they are chopped up into small pieces with a mulcher), as well as vegetative material from the school cafeteria, to make a soil conditioner that can then be used for landscaping school grounds. A properly designed compost pile won’t have a bad odor or attract bugs or rodents. Help can be obtained from the Community Recycling and Composting Team at 512/239-6750, but a closer source is your county agricultural extension agent.

In 1995, the TNRCC adopted state composting rules (Chapter 332, Rule Log No. 95092-332-WS), which lay out “General Requirements” that should be followed by all composting operations. Facilities are exempt from any notification or reporting to the state if they compost

only non-regulated materials discarded on-site, or if they handle only yard trimmings, vegetative food waste, clean wood materials, paper, and/or manure. A copy of the state composting rules can be ordered by calling the Public Information and Publications Division at 512/239-0028. For more information regarding composting regulations, contact the Municipal Solid Waste Division at 512/239-6681.

The Don’t Bag It® program promotes leaving grass clippings on the lawn to be worked into the soil to provide a natural lawn food. Two brochures, *Lawn Care Plans* (GI-167) and *Leaf Management* (GI-166) provide more information and can be ordered by contacting the Public Information and Publications Division at 512/239-0028.

In addition, the TNRCC provides the following resources to schools to assist with their composting efforts:

#### ■ Master Composter Training Program:

Teachers and lawn maintenance personnel can obtain training as a Master Composter and get involved in educating the local community about the benefits of composting yard trimmings. Call the Community Recycling and Composting

Team at 512/239-6750 for dates and locations of these trainings.

- **Composting Activity Series for 5th Grade:** This activity series was created under a grant from TNRCC to the Houston Corporate Recycling Council and Clean Houston, Inc., and is part of the “Junior Master Composter” program. Call the Education Assistance Section at 512/239-0010 for a copy.

## REGULATORY PROGRAMS

### Environmental Trade Fair



This annual conference hosted by the TNRCC and held each spring, offers vast information for Texans subject to state environmental rules and regulations. One of the most popular features is the exhibit hall. For information, contact the Regulatory Outreach Section at 512/239-6330.

### Hazardous Wastes



**Green Lights Program:** This EPA program is designed to cut energy consumption

dramatically by installing EPA-recognized energy efficient lighting (See “PCBs and Fluorescent Lights” for what to do with old light fixtures). Information can be obtained from the EPA, 1850 K Street, Suite 290, Washington DC, 20006, 202/775-6650.

**PCBs and Fluorescent Lights:** Disposal of small PCB light ballasts from fluorescent lights is regulated by EPA. Small light ballasts and small electrical capacitor waste (as defined in 40 CFR Sec. 761.3) may be accepted at a Type I municipal waste landfill in accordance with 40 CFR Sec. 761.60. For more information, contact the Municipal Solid Waste Division Permits Section at 512/239-6781.

PCB light ballasts are recycled by some companies. The TNRCC’s RENEW program (Resource Network for Eliminating Waste) is designed to help find companies seeking materials that others consider to be waste. Contact the RENEW Program at 512/239-3171.

For fluorescent tubes containing mercury vapor, there are currently two management options under state and federal law: recycling and disposal. Recycling fluorescent lamps and reclaiming mercury for reuse is

the preferred management method since it recovers the mercury instead of potentially releasing it to the environment. Disposal of fluorescent lamps from conditionally exempt small quantity generators (generators of less than 220 pounds per month TOTAL hazardous wastes) into a municipal landfill is allowed under current special waste rules. For more information, contact the Municipal Solid Waste Division Permits Section at 512/239-6781.

**Asbestos:** Asbestos may be found in insulation, roofing material, exterior shingles, and ceiling tiles. Contact both the TNRCC and Texas Department of Health for assistance with asbestos issues. The Health Department deals with occupational safety issues. Contact them at 512/834-6600. Disposal of asbestos is also regulated by TNRCC. Call the Municipal Solid Waste Division Permits Section at 512/239-6781 for more information.

**Lead Paint:** Contact both the TNRCC and Texas Department of Health for assistance with lead paint issues.

**Medical Waste:** Most types of medical waste from schools are not regulated by the state, but may be federally regulated by

OSHA (29 CFR 1910.1030). For more information, call the Municipal Solid Waste Division Permits Section at 512/239-6781.

**Mercury In Schools:** The TNRCC has received reports from several schools about students bringing mercury into the classroom. The Emergency Response Team of the TNRCC has been involved with several state-funded mercury cleanups in schools. Mercury contamination in our schools poses a serious threat to the health



and safety of Texas' school children. Several years ago, the TNRCC and Texas Education Agency developed a survey to find out more about mercury in schools. The survey was administered to science teachers and administrators at two TEA conferences. The overwhelming response indicated the need for a state-wide collection program focusing on elemental mercury and mercury compounds. For a copy of the mercury in schools survey, call the Pollution Cleanup Division Emergency Response and Assessment Section at 512/239-2507.

**Other Hazardous Waste:** What do you do with left over theater paint, photography chemicals, pottery glazes from art class, and other chemicals used around the school?

Wastes that schools generate, such as old laboratory chemicals, unusable drain and oven cleaners, bleaches, bug sprays, cleansers, disinfectants, paints and thinners, turpentine, fertilizers, insecticides, weed killers, and furniture polishes are classified as municipal hazardous wastes. These wastes must be disposed of as hazardous wastes, not placed in the trash. A cost-efficient way of properly disposing of these wastes is to combine all hazardous wastes

from schools in a region or district, so that a hazardous waste management firm may pick up these wastes in a larger load, rather than in many small ones. If your city has a household hazardous waste collection facility or collection day, your school may be able to dispose of its waste through that program. Contact your city or collection facility to be sure. The ideal situation is to avoid creating these wastes in the first place. Use up products entirely and look for less hazardous alternatives where possible. For more information on how to set up a municipal hazardous waste collection program, call the Clean Up Program at 512/239-4747.

The TNRCC has developed a classroom activity on how to identify hazardous waste that allows students to inventory their own households. Call the Education Assistance Section at 512/239-0010 for a copy.

## School Recycling

The Workplace Recycling Team conducts workshops on how to begin or expand a recycling program. Call 512/239-6750 for the current workshop schedule. The team offers the following resources to schools to assist with their recycling efforts:

■ The ABC's of School Recycling is a video showing how schools around Texas are recycling in a variety of ways. This video also is available from your school district or education service center. Call the Workplace Recycling Team at 512/239-6750 if you cannot find the video through those sources. Duplicates may be made.

■ School Recycling Poster Packets promote recycling in each classroom and throughout the school. Packets contain one 17"x22" poster (GI-101) and ten 8.5"x11" posters (GI-101a). Slogan on the poster states "Taking Care of Texas Starts Here" and provides space to add your school's

name. To order copies, contact the Public Information and Publications Division at 512/239-0028.

■ Texas School Recycling Guide (GI-30) is a "how to" manual for getting started with a school recycling program. This manual was sent to each Texas school principal in February 1994, so please use the copy previously sent to your principal if possible. To order a copy from the TNRCC, call the Public Information and Publications Division at 512/239-0028. The Guide includes waste reduction and reuse tips.

■ Eight Tips to Involve Elementary Students In School Recycling (GI-52) provides ideas to help elementary students build pride and personal ownership of their school's recycling program. To order copies, contact the Public Information and Publications Division at 512/239-0028.

■ Twelve Tips to Involve Secondary Students In School Recycling (GI-51) provides ideas to help secondary students build pride and personal ownership of their school's recycling program. To order copies, contact the Public Information and Publications Division at 512/239-0028.



## School Transportation Issues

Underground Storage Tanks (USTs): Regulations for USTs are found in the Texas Administrative Code, Title 31, Chapter 334. These rules are administered by the TNRCC's Petroleum Storage Tank Division. Regulated USTs include those containing petroleum substances such as gasoline, diesel, used oil, jet fuel, and those containing hazardous substances such as acetone, methyl ketone, and numerous other hazardous chemicals. Tank owners must have registered known tanks before December 31, 1995 to remain eligible for reimbursement for corrective action costs from a release. All tanks installed after December 1, 1995 must be registered within 30 days after installation is complete in order to remain eligible for reimbursement. For registration information, contact the Registration Section at 512/239-2160.

Tanks installed before 1988 have to comply with implementation schedules for release detection, spill and overfill prevention, and corrosion protection. If a tank was installed after 1988, it was required to be installed under new regulatory standards, so the

tank should have been installed properly. Any installation, removal or repair of a UST has to be done by a registered contractor and supervised by licensed on-site supervisors. When working on tanks, certain notification procedures have to be followed. Details on the notification procedures are in the rules in the Texas Administrative Code.

The TNRCC may issue a notice of violation to tank owners or operators whose tank systems are not in compliance by December 22, 1998 with the agency's regulations on: release detection requirements, spill and overfill requirements, and with corrosion protection requirements. This notice may include an order to remove the noncomply-



ing tank system from service if the system is not compliant within 30 days. For more information, contact the Technical Services Section at 512/239-2182.

The 74th Texas Legislature passed House Bill 2587 modifying corrective action and reimbursement requirements. Corrective action is required for tanks that leak into native soils or groundwater. The legislature provided additional funding for tank owners to be reimbursed for the costs associated with corrective action. Expenses incurred for corrective action for confirmed releases discovered and reported to the agency after December 22, 1998 will not be eligible for reimbursement from the reimbursement fund. Tank owners and operators may consider assessing their sites to determine whether a release has occurred prior to this deadline. For more information regarding corrective action, contact the Responsible Party Remediation Section at 512/239-2200. Direct funding questions to the Reimbursement Section at 512/239-2001.

If a tank owner is financially unable or unwilling to perform needed corrective action, contact the State-Lead Remediation Section at 512/239-2120.

Both state and federal government require that owners and operators for underground petroleum tanks demonstrate that money is available to pay for costs associated with leaking tanks. New financial assurance requirements took effect in February 1994. There are eight different ways to show financial assurance. The amount of financial assurance necessary depends on how much fuel passes through a pump each month, the net worth of the owner, whether fuel is sold at retail level and how many tanks are owned and operated. For more information, contact the Financial Assurance Section at 512/239-6260 or 512/239-6238.

**Oil, Oil Filters and Automotive Wastes:** Schools have long been recycling oil through routine maintenance facilities for school bus fleets. Schools may be eligible for grants to establish oil collection centers if they are willing to open the oil collection program to everyone in the community. Contact the Municipal Solid Waste Division Automotive Waste Management Programs Section at 512/239-6001 for information on grants for oil collection facilities.

Oil filters also fall under more stringent management standards, along with other

automotive wastes such as antifreeze and air conditioning coolant (Freon). Texas has banned disposal of used oil filters in landfills. The ban became a law on September 1, 1995. All used oil filters must be recycled.

Guidelines for the proper handling of used antifreeze are being developed by the TNRCC and will be published in the future. In the meantime, antifreeze should be recycled whenever feasible. For larger generators of used antifreeze, it may be economical to purchase on-site recycling equipment allowing the generator to process and reuse its own used antifreeze. Several antifreeze processors will provide recycling services for a fee; some perform this service at the generator's facility, while others remove the used antifreeze for processing off-site. Antifreeze that is not recycled should be saved in a closed container for a community household hazardous waste collection day, or properly disposed.

Brake and transmission fluids also should be saved for a community hazardous waste collection day. Some oil transporters may also take brake and/or transmission fluids.

The 1990 Clean Air Act required all auto repair facilities that repair auto air condition-

ers to have coolant (Freon) recycling equipment as of January 1, 1992. Several substitutes for coolants with CFCs are being tested, but by the end of 1995, even these substitutes will have to be recycled.

Lead-acid vehicle batteries are covered under recycling laws whereby the dealer accepts the old ones when you buy new ones.

Tires are recycled under a program in which the TNRCC pays registered tire processors a fee for shredding the tires. Processors take the tires from retail dealers as well as cleaning up illegal tire dumps around the state. Schools with tires needing disposal services should contact the Municipal Solid Waste Division's Automotive Waste Management Programs Section at 512/239-6001 for the name of a registered tire processor.

Gas Pumps: In clean air nonattainment areas for ozone levels (16 counties in Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, El Paso and Beaumont/Port Arthur regions), if schools use over 10,000 gallons a month of gas from their own pumps, they will have to equip the pumps with Stage II vapor recovery equipment. This applies only to gasoline, not to diesel or alternative fuels. Call



1-800-533-3AIR to determine if a school falls under these requirements.

The counties are: Dallas, Tarrant, Denton, Collin, El Paso, Harris, Galveston, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Chambers, Montgomery, Waller, Liberty, Jefferson, Orange, and Hardin.

## State Alternative Fuels

### Requirements for School Districts:

The 74th Texas Legislature changed the school district alternative fuel requirements applicable to the Texas Alternative Fuels Program (TAFP). The TAFP requirements for school districts were repealed by the passage of Senate Bill 1, the new Education Code, which the governor signed into law.

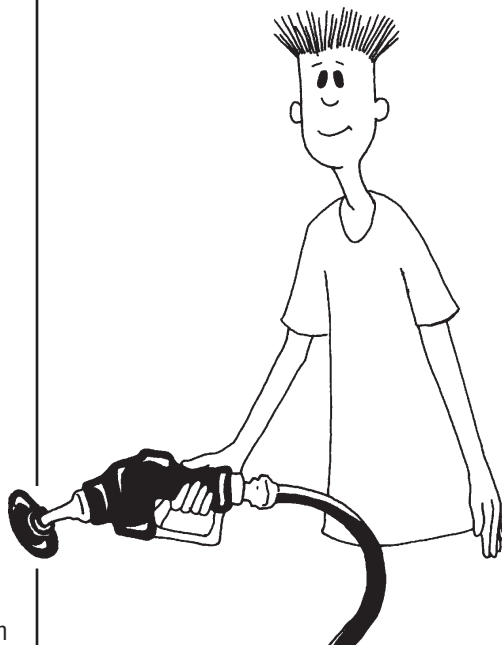
Please call the Clean Fuels and Commute Options Section at 512/239-1440 for more information regarding alternative fuels and other fuel related programs.

### Employer Trip Reduction (ETR):

The Employer Trip Reduction (ETR) program, originally mandated by the 1990 Federal Clean Air Act Amendments, required all employers (including school districts) in the Houston-Galveston non-attainment area with

100 or more employees at a single worksite to implement measures that would reduce the number of commute vehicle trips by 25 percent, on average, during the peak travel times. This program has been on hold since April 1995. In December 1995, President Bill Clinton signed House Rule 325 making ETR programs optional for states. As a result, ETR is no longer being implemented in the Houston-Galveston non-attainment area, and TNRCC has initiated actions to remove the ETR provisions from state pollution reduction plans.

A voluntary program, called the Regional Commute Alternatives Program, or RCAP,



has been developed to replace ETR. This program is being offered through the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC), the area's Metropolitan Planning Organization. RCAP encourages voluntary participation in trip reduction initiatives and focuses on the reduction of all trips, regardless of time or purpose. School districts are encouraged to take advantage of the trip reduction opportunities provided through RCAP.

Please contact the Clean Fuels and Commute Option Section at 512/239-1439 for more information on ETR or the Houston-Galveston Area Council at 713/993-4573 for more information on RCAP.

#### Vehicle Emissions Testing Program:

On November 10, 1995, Governor George W. Bush announced the Texas Motorist's Choice vehicle emissions testing program for Dallas, El Paso, Harris and Tarrant counties. The new program is scheduled to start in Dallas and Tarrant counties on July 1, 1996. Harris and El Paso counties should begin testing in early 1997. The Motorist's Choice program is similar to the vehicle emissions inspection (tailpipe test) currently taking place in Dallas, Tarrant and El Paso counties.

The following vehicles are affected by the Motorist's Choice program:

- All gasoline-powered vehicles 24 years old and newer will be tested beginning with the vehicle's second model year anniversary. Vehicles failing the test will have to be repaired and pass a retest or qualify for a waiver.
- Alternatively fueled or dual-fueled vehicles must be tested in the gasoline mode, if the vehicle can be operated on gasoline.
- Vehicles six years old and older are required to have a test prior to resale.

Motorcycles and diesels are not required to be tested though diesels may be included at a later time.

The Motorist's Choice program will be integrated with the annual safety inspection program and operated by the Texas Department of Public Safety. School district fleet operators can choose among a large number of facilities that will offer emission inspections, including test-only facilities (these may offer large volume tests quickly but they cannot make repairs), or test-and-repair facilities (these may offer one-stop shopping including safety and emissions

inspections and repairs). School district fleets can also choose to have a vehicle tested once every two years by taking their vehicles to a test-only facility with more advanced equipment.

Testing fees will be \$13 at test and repair facilities. At test-only facilities the fees will be determined by the market.

School districts and other public agencies also have the option to inspect and repair their own vehicles after obtaining an emissions station testing license from the Department of Public Safety. Equipment costs to start up a new inspection facility will be approximately \$15,000. Once a school district or public agency is licensed, all other program controls, monitoring and enforcement mechanisms apply.

The Motorist's Choice program replaces a centralized vehicle emissions inspection program that was canceled by the Texas Legislature. The former program had required vehicle owners to have their vehicles complete emissions tests at centralized stations prior to license plate renewal.

For more information please call the Inspection/Maintenance Section at 512/239-

6615 or your local Texas Department of Public Safety office.

## Other Clean Air Issues

Special requirements are in effect for auto body shops, auto repair shops, print shops and other businesses that use certain chemicals. Some school districts conduct these types of "business" activities, particularly as part of a vocational education program. To find out more about these requirements, contact the Small Business Technical Assistance Hotline at 1-800-447-2827.

## Water And Wastewater Treatment

Schools on a city water system don't have to test their water, because the city does testing. If a school has its own water supply system, it is considered a nontransient, noncommunity public water supply and must comply with regulations for public water supplies. Basic requirements include chlorinating the water and submitting monthly microbiological samples to a Texas Department of Health approved laboratory. The design of the system is subject to re-

view by TNRCC as well. For more information, contact the Water Resource Management/Water Utilities/Public Drinking Water Section at 512/239-6020.

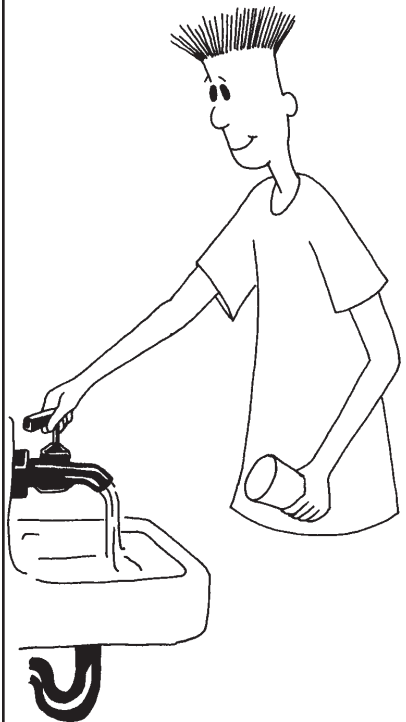
If schools have their own sewage treatment plant, they must comply with TNRCC regulations for wastewater treatment. For more information on permits, contact the Water Resource Management/Agriculture and Watershed Management/Wastewater Permits Section at 512/239-4433. For more information on operation of the treatment facility or compliance with the permit, contact the appropriate TNRCC regional office. If there are questions pertaining to wastewater treatment plant operator certification, contact the Compliance and Enforcement/Compliance Support/Occupational Certification Section at 512/239-6140.

Schools with an on-site septic system must meet state requirements regulating on-site wastewater disposal. For more information, contact 512/239-0400.

The TNRCC can lend technical and administrative assistance to schools who wish to incorporate water treatment issues into their school curriculum. We also can help schools navigate the bureaucracy to

plan and develop a wastewater system and obtain necessary permits to construct the system. Once such model project involves Paint Creek ISD, a small west Texas school district, which came to the TNRCC for advice on how to develop a more efficient way to handle wastewater. Whenever it rained, their septic system would back up into the school.

Paint Creek ISD officials applied to the Texas Education Agency to become a member of the Partnership School Initiative. As a member, they can request that



TEA waive certain regulations to enable the school to develop innovative instructional methods to improve student performance.

Paint Creek ISD also received a TEA Innovative Grant in the amount of \$90,000 to assist in the development of its curriculum plan. They decided to direct attention on how the environment affects Paint Creek, and that the most critical environmental issue in their area involved water. The Paint Creek project focuses on developing hands-on curriculum in math, science and technology. The hands-on portion of the project involves students at all grade levels, K-12, in designing and running the water treatment plant. Students will be involved in collecting data, testing runoff water, using topographic map skills, determining runoff rates and percolation of the water, and other activities.

Partners in the project with Paint Creek ISD include the local education service center, three nearby colleges and universities, and West Texas Utilities Company, whose employees have children that attend the school.

For information regarding the Paint Creek ISD project, contact Jerry Morgan, Superintendent of Schools, at 817/864-2471.

## PEST MANAGEMENT FOR SCHOOLS

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The Texas Structural Pest Control Board (SPCB) established regulations for integrated pest management (IPM) in schools, including termite treatment standards and incidental use.

The Board recommended a manual produced by the EPA, called "Pest Control in the School Environment," as the basic guideline for schools to follow. The regulations were adopted due to public concern about health and environmental risk associated with chemicals, especially when children are involved. School administrators and other persons who have pest control decision-making responsibilities for schools and grounds need to become aware of the pest control options available to them. A school's pest control operator has the opportunity to be designated as a Low Impact Pest Control Operator by the SPCB, by completing a training program. The goal of low impact service is to manage pest problems while reducing pesticide exposure to people, property and the environment.

For additional information on the IPM regulations and operator certification, contact

the Structural Pest Control Board at 512/835-4066, or write SPCB, 9101 FM 1325, Suite 201, Austin Texas 78758.

## DEALING WITH REGULATIONS

Federal laws that govern environmental issues are the Clean Air Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Toxic Substances Control Act, Endangered Species Act, and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. Many laws require permits prior to construction or operation of new facilities.

Copies of TNRCC regulations on each of the topics listed in this guide may be obtained from several sources. These sources are described in *TNRCC Rules* (GI-32). For a copy, call the TNRCC Public Information and Publications Division at 512/239-0028.

Some advice on dealing with pollution regulations:

- Develop an in-house expert whose primary purpose is to keep your organization current on environmental regulations. Make science aptitude a job requirement.

- Conduct an environmental audit. Assess consumption of natural resources. Keep an in-house inspection checklist.
- Develop organizational policy on environmental procedures.
- Develop and implement employee training programs to update workers.
- Retain detailed records on use and disposal of hazardous waste.
- Use trade associations to help research new policies and seek help in submitting appropriate changes to the state legislature.
- When expanding or moving, assess building plans to make certain all permits are obtained and local and state regulations are followed.
- Create a grievance procedure for employees to report possible environmental problems.

For advice, contact:

- the TNRCC at 512/239-1000 or any of the specific numbers previously listed
- the EPA Region 6 at 214/655-8856
- the EPA small business hotline at 1-800-368-5888
- the TNRCC Small Business Technical Assistance Hotline at 1-800-447-2827

■ the Control Technology Center  
at 919/541-0800

## PUBLICATIONS

The Environmental Protection Agency produces the following pieces. Order by calling 202/260-2080, or writing Public Information Center, US EPA, Washington DC 20460. Please use document numbers when ordering.

*Auto Air Conditioners and the Ozone Layer:  
A Consumer Guide* (EPA 430-F-94-009)

*Introducing... The Energy Star Buildings  
Program* (EPA 430-F-93-061)

*Introducing... The Energy Star Computers  
Program* (EPA 430-F-93-049)

*Introducing... The Green Lights Program*  
(EPA 430-F-93-050)

## TNRCC REGIONAL OFFICES

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1-Amarillo  
3918 Canyon Drive  
Amarillo, TX 79109-4996  
806/353-9251 FAX: 806/358-9545

2-Lubbock  
4630 50th St., Suite 600  
Lubbock, TX 79414-3509  
806/796-7092 FAX: 806/796-7107

3-Abilene  
209 South Danville, Suite 200B  
Abilene, TX 79605  
915/698-9674 FAX: 915/692-5869

4-Arlington  
*Air Program*  
6421 Camp Bowie Blvd., Suite 312  
Fort Worth, TX 76116  
817/732-5531 FAX: 817/732-0175

*Water Program*  
1019 N. Duncanville Rd.  
Duncanville, TX 75116-2201  
214/298-6171 FAX: 214/709-1181

*Waste Program*  
407 North Cedar Ridge, Suite 230  
Duncanville, TX 75116  
214/283-3703 FAX: 214/709-1181

5-Tyler  
*Air Program*  
1304 South Vine Ave.  
Tyler, TX 75701  
903/595-2639 FAX: 903/595-1562

*Water Program*  
11406 Hwy. 64 East  
Rt. 14, Box 254, Tyler, TX 75707  
903/566-0476 FAX: 903/566-9216

*Waste Program*  
2916 Teague, Tyler, TX 75701  
903/595-5466 FAX: 903/593-2542

6-El Paso  
7500 Viscount Blvd., Suite 147  
El Paso, TX 79925  
915/778-9634 FAX: 915/778-4576

7-Odessa  
2626 J.B. Shepperd Pkwy. Blvd.  
Bldg. B-101, Odessa, TX 79761  
915/362-6997 FAX: 915/362-4517

8-San Angelo  
301 W. Beauregard Ave., Suite 202  
San Angelo, TX 76903  
915/655-9479 FAX: 915/658-5431

9-Waco  
6801 Sanger Ave., Suite 2500  
Waco, TX 76710-7807  
817/751-0335 FAX: 817/772-9241



10-Beaumont  
3870 Eastex Fwy., Suite 110  
Beaumont, TX 77703-1830  
409/898-3838 FAX: 409/892-2119

11-Austin  
1921 Cedar Bend, Ste. 150  
Austin, TX 78758  
512/339-2929 FAX: 512/339-3795

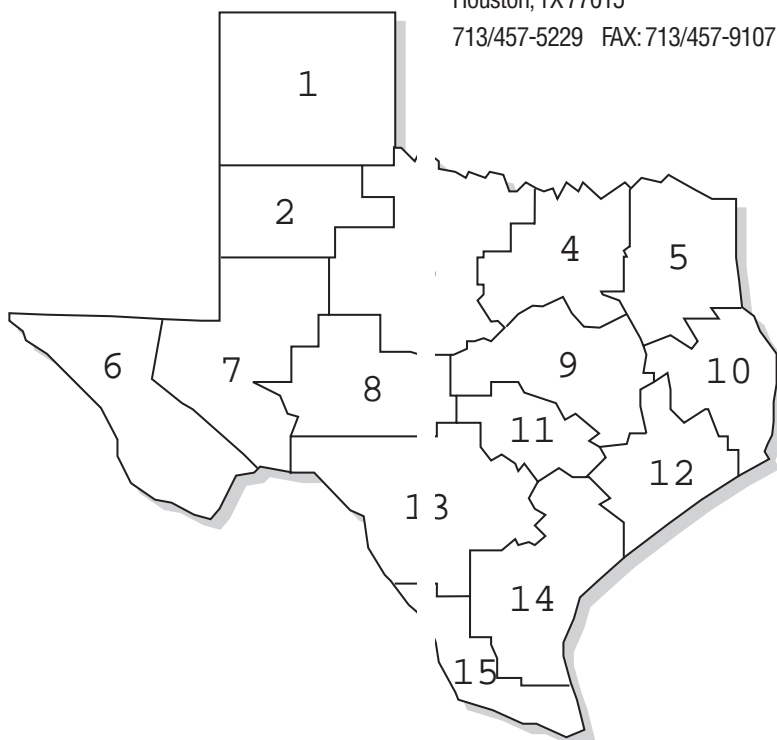
12-Houston  
5425 Polk Avenue, Suite H  
Houston, TX 77023-1423  
713/767-3500 FAX: 713/767-3520

13-San Antonio  
140 Heimer Rd., Suite 360  
San Antonio, TX 78232-5042  
210/490-3096 FAX: 210/545-4329

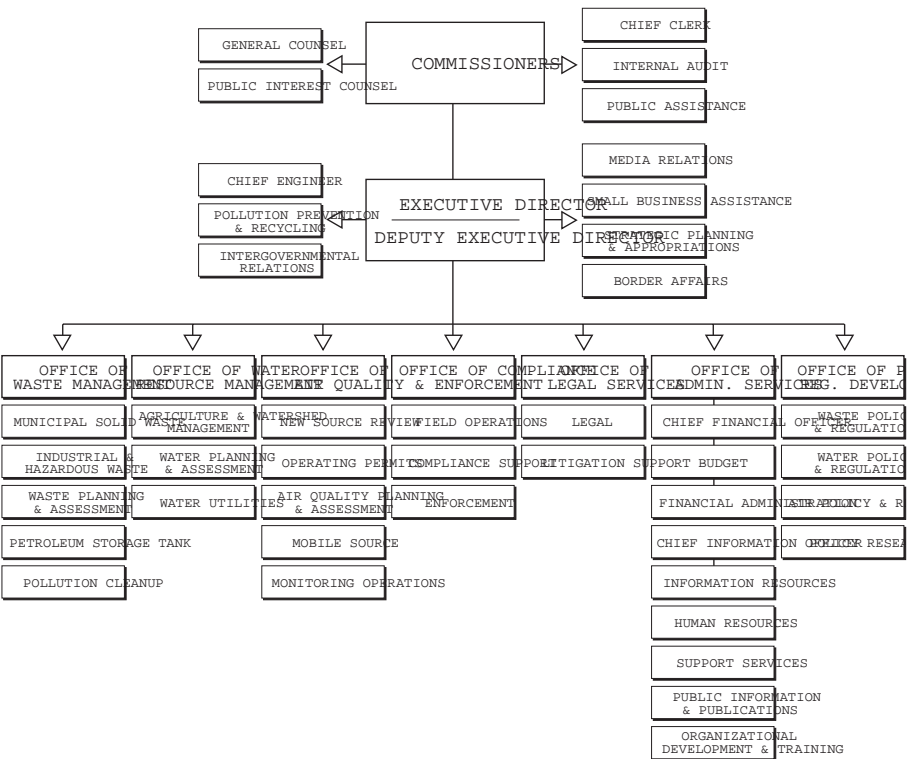
14-Corpus Christi  
6300 Ocean Drive, Suite 1200  
Corpus Christi, TX 78412  
512/980-3100 FAX: 512/980-3101

15-Harlingen  
134 E. Van Buren, Suite 301  
Harlingen, TX 78550  
210/425-6010 FAX: 210/412-5059

TNRCC Laboratory  
5144 E. Sam Houston Pkwy. N.  
Houston, TX 77015  
713/457-5229 FAX: 713/457-9107



# TNRRCC ORGANIZATION



## EVALUATION OF THIS GUIDE BOOK

To: Texas School District Officials  
From: TNRRCC Education Assistance Section

Please help us improve future editions of "The Environmental Guide for Texas School Districts" and our customer service efforts by providing us with some feedback using the postage-paid reply card on the next page.

*Thank you for taking the time to respond.*



Was this Guide used by someone at the individual school level or the district level? *(please check one)*

☐ SCHOOL    ☐ DISTRICT

OPTIONAL, If used by someone at the school level, please give us the name and title of the person using the guide, the school and the district: \_\_\_\_\_

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Did the person using this guide receive good customer service in getting answers to environmental questions from the TNRCC?

☐ YES    ☐ NO

If yes, which areas of the TNRCC were most helpful? \_\_\_\_\_

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If no, which areas of the TNRCC were unresponsive or not helpful? \_\_\_\_\_

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What sections of the guide did you find most helpful? \_\_\_\_\_

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What improvements would you make to future issues of this guide? \_\_\_\_\_

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